

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A method for preparing graphite nanospheres having a structure comprising a plurality of frustum of pyramids of multilayer graphite disposed with no spaces therebetween with their apexes concentrated at center, the appearance thereof being substantially spherical, said method comprising emitting carbon atoms or clusters into an inert gas atmosphere under a pressure of 5 to 10 atm at a temperature of no less than 1000°C.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15 for preparing graphite nanospheres, wherein carbon atoms or clusters at a temperature of no less than 1000°C are emitted by irradiating a carbon target with a CO₂ laser in an inert gas atmosphere under a pressure of 5 to 10 atm.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15 for preparing graphite nanospheres, wherein the maximum outer diameter of the graphite particles is controlled by changing the kind of the inert gas, the pressure or the temperature.